GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3244
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2007
DEVELOPMENT OF INDIAN PORTS
Reddy Shri Karunakara G.

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India lags far behind in the development of ports and in providing them with basic facilities of international standard as compared to that of China and East Asia;

(b) if so, the comparative details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the waiting period of ships is twice as compared to that of the said countries; and

(d) if so, the details of the efforts made by the Government for the development of Indian ports?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) to (d): It is the Government's endeavour to continuously improve the facilities available in the Indian ports, keeping in view the need to improve their efficiency, productivity, quality of service and their competitiveness. The Department of Shipping has formulated the National Maritime Development Programme in December, 2005 under which a total of 387 projects pertaining to Major Ports, Shipping and Inland Water Transport Sectors, involving an estimated investment of Rs.1,00,339 crores have been identified to be taken up for implementation, over a defined period. Out of this, a total of 276 projects involving estimated investment of Rs.55,804 crores pertain to the Major Ports. The projects in the Major Ports, to be taken up for implementation over a period upto 2011-12, cover the entire range of activities including construction/ reconstruction of berths, deepening of channels, upgradation/modernization of cargo handling equipment, improvement in rail and road connectiy its and other associated activities. While the objective is to upgrade the facilities and services to levels which are globally comparable, in the absence of any authoritative and/ or universally accepted system of benchmarking, it may not be appropriate to draw definitive conclusions about the level of development and the operational standards in Indian ports vis-Ã -vis ports outside India.